UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

In cooperation with the Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 6, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3--- Strawberries are headlining the fruit news this week. They are coming from Santa Clara, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, as well as from the San Joaquin Valley. Monday's record receipts of 12,000 crates were the heaviest for the past ten years in the San Francisco wholesale market.

The first cherries of the season have arrived from the Sacramento Valley. They are the Chapman and Purple Guigne varieties. Prices are high, of course.

And Florida watermelons have made their bow of the season, with only a few received.

Avocados have dropped in price again and are now a Fairly Good Buy.

Citrus fruits remain in the high-priced bracket.

The list of Best Buys in vegetables is the longest in quite some time. It starts off with artichokes at lower prices, and continues with asparagus, lettuce (lower), peas, spinach, and squash (considerably lower).

Good Buys include carrots, celery, and onions.

Potatoes, both old and new, are a Fair Buy, along with tomatoes.

MORE

Supplies of meat were heavier in the San Francisco wholesale market this past week, with the result that prices have been on a downward trend on a number of items. Range calves came to market in larger supply to result in a considerably larger supply of calf and veal, which sold around $2.00 per hundredweight lower. Some Choice grade yearling-type beef carcasses were available from the recent Junior National Livestock Show, but prices on beef held mostly unchanged under a fair to good demand. Lighter supplies of spring lamb were little changed in price, but the supply of ewe mutton about doubled and sold around $3.00 per hundredweight lower under a very limited demand. Fresh pork carcasses held about unchanged in price, even though replacement costs were lower. Fresh hams and picnics dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. With smoked meats in little demand, smoked hams and smoked picnics ranged from $1.00 to $4.00 lower per hundredweight.

Butter production has continued to increase in the west and is now 8 percent larger than a year ago. Demand has been rather limited during the past week -- especially for top grades. But prices are unchanged from a week ago, with grades A&AA(1st Quality) butter quoted to retailers at 65½ to 67½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and grade B(2nd Quality) quoted at 65 to 66 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

In the egg market an unfavorable price ratio between San Francisco and the mid-west has resulted in lighter receipts of eggs from the mid-west. As a result, local eggs have been going directly into retail outlets. Prices are higher, with Grade "A" Large eggs quoted 1-cent higher to retailers at 55 to 56 cents per dozen in cartons. Grade "A" Mediums are up 2 cents at 52 to 53 cents per dozen. And Grade "A" Smalls are 1-cent higher at 42 cents per dozen.

Heavy supplies of all classes of poultry in the San Francisco wholesale market have resulted in a 1-cent-per-pound price drop on broilers, colored roasters, all weights of Leghorn hens, and colored hens. Dressed broilers are quoted to retailers at 40 to 42 cents per pound, and colored roasters at 43 to 44 cents. Leghorn hens under 4 pounds are quoted at 41 to 42 cents, and Leghorn hens over 4 pounds at 42 to 43 cents per pound. Colored hens are selling at 47 to 49 cents per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 13, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10--- Strawberries are the top-notch buy in fruits again this week. Supplies are plentiful, and prices continue on the downgrade.

Avocados rank as a Fairly Good Buy at lower prices.

Citrus fruits have all advanced in price again and remain high.

More and more cherries are coming to market. They are still in rather light supply, but prices are coming down.

Also in the markets are a few Florida and Mexican watermelons, and a few Mexican cantaloups.

Artichokes, lettuce, and spinach are the week's Best Buys in vegetables.

Good Buys in the vegetable division are asparagus (slightly higher), onions, potatoes (both old and new), and soft squash (slightly higher).

Included among the Fairly Good Buys are carrots (slightly higher), celery (slightly higher), and peas (higher).

Tomatoes are considerably higher in price this week.

Sweet corn is coming to market from the Coachella Valley and Texas, but supplies are still light.

MORE

Demand has been only fair for most meats in the San Francisco wholesale market this past week. Drying of natural grass pastures has resulted in lower quality grass-fed cows and range slaughter calves. However, prices have held unchanged on all grades and classes of beef. Good and Choice grades of veal have also held unchanged in price, while Commercial and Good grades of calf have dropped around $2.00 per hundredweight. Spring lamb has been in better demand at unchanged prices. Fresh pork carcasses have dropped $1.00 per hundredweight, and smoked hams and bacon $2.00 per hundredweight. Lard has advanced $1.00 per hundredweight.

A slow demand for liberal offerings of butter in the San Francisco wholesale market has resulted in a price sag of 1 to 1½ cents per pound. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) butter are quoted 1-cent lower to retailers at 64½ to 66½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is quoted down 1½ cents to retailers at 63½ to 64½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

There has been no change in egg prices this past week. The below-normal demand for eggs for storage purposes has resulted in sufficient eggs for current needs. Production is running around 8 percent larger than last year, while sales are about 11 percent larger. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted to retailers 55 to 56 cents per dozen in cartons, Mediums at 52 to 53 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 42 cents per dozen in cartons.

Dressed poultry prices are little changed from a week ago, even though supplies are quite liberal. An improved demand for Leghorn broilers hiked the price 1-cent to 41 to 43 cents per pound, while larger supplies of Leghorn and colored hens held unchanged in price. Young colored chickens have also been in more demand but have held unchanged in price. Squabs have dropped 1-cent per pound to sell at $1.15 to $1.20 per pound. And more plentiful rabbits are down 2 to 3 cents at 58 to 60 cents per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 20, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17--- Strawberries are slightly higher priced this week but are still the Best Buy in fruits.

Avocados are a Fairly Good Buy at slightly lower prices.

Most of the cherries in the markets are of the Chapman variety and may be classed as a "Fair Buy."

Citrus fruits are up in price from last week and remain in the high-priced bracket.

Artichokes and lettuce take top billing as the week's Best Buys in vegetables.

Asparagus (slightly lower) is a Good Buy along with onions and new potatoes.

Fair Buys include: Carrots (slightly higher), celery, peas, old crop potatoes, spinach (higher), soft squash.

MORE

Trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market improved slightly during the past week, when the first influx of Utility to Commercial grass steer beef carcasses of the season hit the market. Beef carcasses weighing less than 500 pounds, Choice grade veal, and lightweight lamb carcasses were all in light supply. Beef carcasses have held unchanged in price, while Good hindquarter and round cuts were in lighter supply and advanced $2.00 per hundredweight. Utility to Commercial grades of calf were in little demand at mostly unchanged prices. Lamb supplies were fairly well distributed at unchanged prices. But there has been only a moderate demand for fresh pork carcasses and cuts. As a result, prices have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight on practically all fresh pork cuts. Prices have also dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight on smoked hams and bacon under a dull demand. Lard has held unchanged from a week ago.

Although there has been a limited demand for liberal supplies of butter in the San Francisco wholesale market, prices have advanced 1-cent on top grades. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are quoted 1-cent higher to retailers at 65½ to 67½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is unchanged from last week at 63½ to 64½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

A good demand for top grades of eggs -- for both retail outlets and for storage purposes -- has kept the liberal supplies well cleared. Prices, though, are unchanged from a week ago, with Grade "A" Large eggs quoted to retailers at 55 to 56 cents per dozen in cartons, Mediums at 52 to 53 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Smalls at 42 cents per dozen in cartons.

In the San Francisco wholesale poultry market lighter supplies of broilers, fryers and roasters have resulted in price advances. Dressed broilers are 1 to 2 cents per pound higher than last week; small colored fryers are up 1 to 2 cents per pound; large colored fryers are 3 cents higher; and colored roasters are 3 cents per pound higher. Classes of poultry that have dropped in price include: Small Leghorn hens 1-cent per pound lower; ducks down 5 to 6 cents per pound; and young tom turkeys 2 cents per pound lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 27, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24--- Lettuce -- priced considerably lower -- is the week's outstanding buy in the wholesale vegetable market. Onions are the next Best Buy.

Good Buys include: Asparagus, carrots (slightly lower), peas (lower), new potatoes, and soft squash.

In the Fair Buy class are artichokes (slightly higher), snap beans (lower), celery, corn (at reduced prices), and cucumbers.

In the fruit division, cherries are a Fairly Good Buy with more Tartarians appearing in the market.

Prices have advanced on strawberries to make them a Fair Buy, as are avocados at slightly higher prices.

A few local raspberries have arrived, and there are a few youngberries coming in from Tulare county. Imperial Valley cantaloups are beginning to come in, too, at high prices. And a few apricots have made their appearance in the wholesale market.

Citrus fruits remain high priced.

MORE

Demand has ranged from fair to good in the San Francisco wholesale meat market during the past week, with steer beef loins, fresh pork cuts, and spring lamb favored. Prices advanced $1.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight on beef loins and forequarters. Pork loins went up $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. And most spring lamb carcasses were priced $1.00 to $2.00 higher per hundredweight. Offerings of calf carcasses have been considerably lighter this past week; supplies of pork cuts have been below normal. In the beef division there has been a good movement of fed steers along with a second influx of Utility and Commercial grades of grass-fed carcasses. Smoked skinned hams, bacon and plentiful supplies of lard have been in little demand. And prices have dropped $1.00 per hundredweight on hams.

Butter prices have held unchanged from a week ago, although demand has been somewhat limited for plentiful supplies. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 65½ to 67½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is quoted to retailers at 63½ to 64½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

In the San Francisco wholesale egg market, demand has been fairly good for top quality large eggs at unchanged prices. Partly because of the shipping strike in Hawaii, medium-sized eggs have been in less demand and have dropped 1-cent per dozen. Small sizes are still unchanged in price. Quotations to retailers are: Grade "A" Large, 55 to 56 cents per dozen in cartons; Mediums 51 to 52 cents; and Grade "A" Smalls, 42 cents per dozen in cartons.

In the poultry market, higher prices of live poultry have been reflected in an advance of 1-cent per pound on dressed broilers, colored fryers and colored roasters. Supplies have been rather light on these classes. Colored hens are in ample supply and have dropped 1-cent per pound. Rabbits, too, have dropped 1-cent per pound as the result of more than ample supplies. All other classes are unchanged in price from a week ago.

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